

45900-000717

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/DK00/00455

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

August 17, 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

August 19, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OBJECTIVE QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF GRAPE MUSTS AND/OR WINES BY
BROADBAND INFRA-RED SPECTROMETRY

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

MARC DUBERNET

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1).
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). WO 00/
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☒ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 20. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98-1449 and International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) in German with () references.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information:
 - 1) Two (2) sheets of Formal Drawings
 - 2

U.S. APPLICATION NO. OF INVENTION (see 37 CFR 1.53)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
NEW 049819		PCT/DK00/00455		45900-000717	

<p>21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$1,040.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$890.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO. \$710.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4). \$690.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4). \$100.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</p> <p>Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr> <th>CLAIMS</th> <th>NUMBER FILED</th> <th>NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th>RATE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Claims</td> <td>23 - 20 =</td> <td>3</td> <td>X \$18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent Claims</td> <td>2 - 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>X \$80.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) None</td> <td>+ \$270.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</td> <td>\$ 1074.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SUBTOTAL = \$ 1074.00</p> <p>Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$</p> <p>Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ 1074.00</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Amount to be:</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">refunded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">charged</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> </table>	CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	Total Claims	23 - 20 =	3	X \$18.00	Independent Claims	2 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) None			+ \$270.00	TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =			\$ 1074.00		Amount to be:			refunded	\$		charged	\$	
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a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account. No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$1074.00 to cover the above fees.
 A triplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
 overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

Send all correspondence to
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C - Customer No. 30593
Post Office Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195

Date: 02/19/02 _____

By
 Donald J. Daley

DJD/kna
 Revised 2/1/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: To be Assigned
Filing Date: February 19, 2002
Applicant: Marc Dubernet
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OBJECTIVE QUALITATIVE
ANALYSIS OF GRAPE MUSTS AND/OR
WINES BY BROADBAND INFRA-RED
SPECTROMETRY
Attorney Docket: 45900-000717

Box Amendment
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This application is the National Phase under 35 USC §371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/DK00/00455 which has an International filing date of August 17, 2000, which designated the United States of America the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all of claims 1-23 pending in the International Application.

Please add the following new claims:



Please replace International Applications claims with new claims 24-46 attached hereto, for prosecution in connection with the present U.S. National Stage application.

REMARKS

Per the present Preliminary Amendment, all of the pending International claims have been canceled. In substitution therefore, Applicant submits new claims 24-46 attached hereto, for prosecution in connection with the present U.S. National Stage application. An early indication of the allowability of each of these new claims 24-46 in connection with the present application earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/19/02

By: Donald J. Daley
Donald J. Daley
Reg. No. 34,313

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
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PATENT CLAIMS

24. A method for the objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, *characterised in that:*

- an initial configuration and calibration step (13) is carried out during which:
 - 5 - a group of characteristic parameters are selected, the characteristic parameters being capable of characterising the quality of a vinification composition to be analysed, and comprising the concentration levels in the vinification composition of characteristic compounds, chosen among at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, and at least a compound produced by acetic bacteria, and at least a compound produced by lactic acid bacteria,
 - 10 - calibration values (σ , K , B_0) of spectroscopic criteria are determined and recorded for each characteristic parameter, the spectroscopic criteria being chosen to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from an infrared absorption spectrum, which can be generated from a sample of this vinification composition,
 - for each vinification composition to be analysed:
 - 15 - a spectroscopic analysis (17, 18) is carried out during which a continuous infrared absorption spectrum of a sample of this vinification composition is generated,
 - the spectroscopic criteria of each characteristic parameter are applied to the said continuous spectrum in such a way that the value (V_p) of this characteristic parameter in the vinification composition is evaluated by automatic calculation (19).

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25. A method according to claim 24, *characterised in that* the group of characteristic parameters comprises the concentration of each of the characteristic compounds, belonging to the group consisting of gluconic acid, ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, mannitol, sorbitol, 2,3-butanediol, methyl-3 butanol-1, glycerol, mesoinositol and isoamyl acetate.

25

26. A method according to claim 24, *characterised in that* the continuous spectrum is generated by Fourier transform interferometric spectroscopy.

- 27. A method according to claim 24, *characterised in that* the spectroscopic criteria are chosen to
 - 30 enable evaluation of each characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from a near and mid infrared absorption spectrum, and in that the near and mid infrared continuous spectrum of each vinification composition to be analysed is generated.

27. A method according to claim 25, characterised in that at least an objective quality index (Q_i) of the vinification composition is calculated as a function of the said value (V_p) evaluated from at least a characteristic parameter of the vinification composition to be analysed.

5 28. A method according to claim 28, characterised in that the function is a polynomial function.

29. A method according to claim 28, characterised in that there are calculated:

- a first quality index, representing the attack on the harvest by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least as a function of the value of concentration levels of gluconic acid, mannitol and sorbitol evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a second quality index, representing the attack by yeasts, at least as a function of the value of the concentration levels of ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, of 2,3-butanediol, of methyl-3 butanol-1, of glycerol, of mesoinositol and of isoamyl acetate evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- 15 - a third quality index representing the attack by acetic bacteria, at least as a function of values of the concentration levels of acetic acid, ethyl acetate and of 2,3-butanediol evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a fourth quality index representing the attack by lactic acid bacteria, at least as function of the value of concentration levels of lactic acid, mannitol and of 2,3-butanediol, evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- 20 - and a fifth quality index representing the fermentation ability, at least as a function of the value of the concentration of mesoinositol.

30. A method according to claim 29, characterised in that each characteristic parameter is evaluated and each quality index (Q_i) is calculated by data processing immediately after the spectroscopic analysis step has been carried out.

31. A method according to claim 30, characterised in that the spectroscopic criteria comprise for each characteristic parameter, for a selection of an integral number N of spectral bands σ_i of predetermined wavelengths, the value of the luminescence spectral density Li of the said continuous spectrum, and in that a value V_p of the characteristic parameter is calculated according to the formula:

$$V_p = B_0 + \sum_{i=1}^N K_i Li$$

where B_0 and K_i are predetermined coefficients.

33. A method according to claim 32, characterised in that each N lies between 5 and 30.

34. A method according to claim 34, characterised in that the group of characteristic parameters further comprises alcoholic volumetric strength; total sugar content; total acidity; pH; concentration of acetic acid; concentration of malic acid; concentration of tartaric acid; concentration of lactic acid; and content of phenolic compounds.

35. A device for objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, characterised in that it comprises :

memory means (8) in which the calibration values $((\sigma_i, K_i, B_{\sigma}))$ of spectroscopic criteria are recorded for a group of characteristic parameters capable of characterising the quality of a vinification composition to be analysed, this group comprising the concentration levels in the vinification composition of characteristic compounds selected from at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, and at least a compound produced by acetic bacteria, at least a compound produced by lactic acid bacteria, the said spectroscopic criteria being selected for each characteristic parameter to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from an infrared absorption spectrum that can be generated from a sample of this vinification composition,

spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) for collecting a sample of vinification composition and generating an infrared continuous spectrum of this sample,

calculation means (7) arranged to apply the spectroscopic criteria of each characteristic parameter to the said continuous spectrum and to evaluate by automatic calculation the value (V_p) of this characteristic parameter in the vinification composition.

36. A device according to claim 35, characterised in that the group of characteristic parameters comprises the concentration of each of the characteristic compounds belonging to the group consisting of gluconic acid, ethanol, ethyl acetate, arabitol, mannitol, sorbitol, 2,3-butanediol, methyl-3 butanol-1, glycerol, mesoinositol and isoamyl acetate.

37. A device according to claim 35, characterised in that the spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) comprise a Fourier transform interferometric spectrometer.

38. A device according to claim 35, characterised in that the selection criteria are chosen for each characteristic parameter to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from a near and mid infrared spectrum,

and in that the spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) are arranged to generate near and mid infrared continuous absorption spectra.

39. A device according to claim 35, characterised in that the calculation means (7) are arranged to calculate automatically at least an objective quality index (Q_j) of the vinification composition as a function of this value (V_p) evaluated from at least a characteristic parameter for the vinification composition to be analysed.

40. A device according to claim 39, characterised in that the function is a polynomial function.

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41. A device according to claim 39, characterised in that the calculation means (7) are arranged to calculate:
- a first quality index, representing the attack on the harvest by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least as a function of the value of concentration levels of gluconic acid, mannitol and sorbitol evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
 - a second quality index, representing the attack by yeasts, at least as a function of the value of the concentration levels of ethanol, ethyl acetate, arabitol, of 2,3-butanediol, of methyl-3 butanol-1, of glycerol, of mesoinositol and of isoamyl acetate evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
 - a third quality index representing the attack by acetic bacteria, at least as a function of values of the concentration levels of acetic acid, ethyl acetate and of 2,3-butanediol evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
 - a fourth quality index representing the attack by lactic acid bacteria, at least as function of the value of concentration levels of lactic acid, mannitol and of 2,3-butanediol, evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
 - and a fifth quality index representing the fermentation ability, is calculated at least as a function of the value of the concentration of mesoinositol.

42. A device according to claim 39, characterised in that the calculation means (7) are arranged to evaluate each characteristic parameter and to calculate each quality index Q_j by data processing immediately after the generation of the continuous spectrum by the spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6), and to provide the results of these calculations to means (10) that are read by a user.

43. A device according to claim 42, characterised in that the means (10) that are read comprise means for printing a report of results.

- ~~44~~. A device according to claim ~~35~~, *characterised in* that for each characteristic parameter, the calibration values comprise an integral number N of spectral bands σ_i of predetermined wavelengths and coefficients K_i and B_0 , and in that the calculation means (7) are arranged to calculate a value V_p of the characteristic parameter from values of the luminescence spectral density L_i of the said continuous spectrum obtained for the N spectral bands σ_i , according to the formula:

$$V_p = B_0 + \sum_{i=1}^N K_i L_i$$

- ~~45~~. A device according to claim ~~44~~, *characterised in* that N is a number between 5 and 30.
- 10 ~~46~~. A device according to claim ~~35~~, *characterised in* that the group of characteristic parameters further comprises alcoholic strength; total sugar content; total acidity; pH; concentration of acetic acid; concentration of malic acid; concentration of tartaric acid; concentration of lactic acid; and content of phenolic compounds.

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METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OBJECTIVE QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF GRAPE MUSTS AND/OR WINES BY BROADBAND INFRA-RED SPECTROMETRY

The invention relates to a method and a device for objective qualitative analysis by broadband
 5 infrared spectrometry of grape musts intended for vinification and/or wines, collectively referred to in this
 text as "vinification compositions".

For a long time a solution has been sought that would permit an objective and rapid qualitative
 evaluation of grape musts intended for vinification. Such an evaluation would make it possible to
 determine objectively the price of a grape harvest according to its quality. Furthermore, it would be
 10 possible to better select the musts according to the qualities of the desired wines, and ultimately to
 employ vinification technologies that are better adapted to the quality of the grape musts. To be
 effective this objective analysis must be able to be carried out very quickly (within no more than about 1
 to 2 minutes) on the raw musts at the vinification sites (and not only in a laboratory).

Until now the musts have been evaluated in a coarse manner, essentially by measuring the
 15 content of sugar by refractometry or densitometry. In rare cases this measurement has been
 supplemented by measuring the total acidity and the pH by traditional chemical titration methods.
 Sometimes a subjective semi-quantitative evaluation of the presence of laccase, (an enzyme secreted
 by *Botrytis cinerea*, a grape parasite) is carried out. Nevertheless, as this enzyme itself is destroyed by
 the products of the reactions that it catalyses, its measurement is not useful.

20 The same problem arises for the objective qualitative analysis of wines that would permit an
 objective determination of their value and the qualities.

It has been proposed to determine the alcoholic strength of wines by using a spectrophotometer
 in the near infrared range for 19 distinct wavelengths ("l'infraalyzer 400 : une determination automatique
 du titre alcoometrique des vins" CABANIS et al, Fran ...Oenol 89, 75-79, 1983).

25 Nevertheless, the use of such an apparatus is long and complex, only provides results for the
 measurement of ethanol and sugar reducing agents, and does not permit a complete objective analysis
 of the quality of the musts and/or the wines.

For more than 20 years, various other theoretical methods of analysis of grape musts and/or
 wines have been described, but none of them has become the object of practical exploitation. They are
 30 much too complex to put into practice and/or do not provide complete and reproducible objective results.

The invention aims to remedy these drawbacks by proposing a method and a device permitting
 the provision of an objective qualitative analysis of grape musts and/or wines and capable of being put
 into practice outside a laboratory -particularly at a vinification site.

The invention aims then to permit this analysis to be obtained in a rapid manner, particularly
 35 within a maximum duration of 1 to 2 minutes.

The invention also permits this analysis to be obtained in a simple automatic manner, in a single analysis step performed automatically, without it being necessary to carry out chemical preparations, manipulations or adjustments.

The invention also aims to permit reliable and complete analyses to be obtained permitting an objective appreciation of the quality of a wine and/or must and/or the harvest from which a must originates, in a manner particularly enabling an objective determination of its price and facilitating the defining of the subsequent measures to be taken for the vinification and/or the conservation and/or the commercialisation.

To achieve this, the invention concerns a method for the objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, characterised in that

- an initial configuration and calibration step (13) is carried out during which:
 - a group of characteristic parameters are selected that are capable of characterising the quality of a vinification composition to be analysed, and comprising the concentration levels in the vinification composition of characteristic compounds chosen among at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, at least a compound produced by acetic bacteria, and at least a compound produced by lactic acid bacteria,
 - calibration values of spectroscopic criteria are determined and recorded for each characteristic parameter, the spectroscopic criteria being chosen to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from an infrared absorption spectrum, which can be generated on a sample of this vinification composition,
 - for each vinification composition to be analysed:
 - a spectroscopic analysis is carried out during which a continuous Infrared absorption spectrum of a sample of this vinification composition is generated,
 - the spectroscopic criteria of each characteristic parameter are applied to the said continuous spectrum in such a way that the value of this characteristic parameter in the vinification composition is evaluated by automatic calculation.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the group of characteristic parameters comprises the concentration of each of the characteristic compounds belonging to the group consisting of gluconic acid, ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, mannitol, sorbitol, 2,3-butanediol, methyl-3 butanol-1, glycerol, mesoinositol and isoamyl acetate. Thus calibration values are determined and recorded for these characteristic parameters, which are evaluated by calculation for each vinification composition to be analysed.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the spectroscopic criteria are chosen to enable evaluation of each characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from a near and mid infrared absorption spectrum, and the near and mid infrared continuous spectrum of each vinification composition to be analysed is generated.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the continuous spectrum is generated by Fourier transform interferometric spectroscopy.

Advantageously and according to the invention, at least an objective quality index of the vinification composition is calculated automatically as a function of the said value evaluated from at least
5 a characteristic parameter for the vinification composition to be analysed. Advantageously and according to the invention the function is a polynomial function.

Advantageously and according to the invention the following are calculated:

- a first quality index, representing the attack on the harvest by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least as a function of the value of concentration levels of gluconic acid, mannitol and sorbitol evaluated from the
10 continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a second quality index, representing the attack by yeasts, at least as a function of the value of the concentration levels of ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, 2,3-butanediol, methyl-3 butanol-1, glycerol, and isoamyl acetate, evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a third quality index representing the attack by acetic bacteria, at least as a function of values of
15 the concentration levels of acetic acid, ethyl acetate and of 2,3-butanediol evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a fourth quality index representing the attack by lactic acid bacteria, at least as function of the value of concentration levels of lactic acid, mannitol and of 2,3-butanediol, evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- and a fifth quality index representing the fermentation ability, at least as a function of the value
20 of the concentration level of mesoinositol.

Advantageously and according to the invention each characteristic parameter is evaluated and each quality index is calculated by data processing immediately after the spectroscopic analysis step has been carried out.

- 25 Advantageously and according to the invention, the spectroscopic criteria comprise for each characteristic parameter, for a selection of an integral number N of spectral bands of predetermined wavelengths, the value of the luminescence spectral density Li of the said continuous spectrum, and a value V_p of the characteristic parameter is calculated according to the formula:

$$V_p = B_0 + \sum_{i=1}^N K_i L_i$$

30

where B_0 and K_i are predetermined coefficients. Advantageously and according to the invention, N is included in the group from 5 to 30 - particularly in the order 15 -.

- Advantageously and according to the invention the group of characteristic parameters further comprises the alcoholic volumetric strength; total sugar content; total acidity; pH; concentration of acetic
35 acid; concentration of malic acid; concentration of tartaric acid, concentration of lactic acid, and content

of phenolic compounds. In this way, the calibration values are determined and recorded for the characteristic parameters which are evaluated by calculation for each vinification composition to be analysed. These characteristic parameters may then also be used and evaluated to determine one or more quality indices.

5 The invention also extends to a device for carrying out a method according to the invention.

Accordingly, the invention also concerns a device for objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, characterised in that it comprises:

- memory means wherein calibration values of spectroscopic criteria are recorded for a group of characteristic parameters capable of characterising the quality of a vinification composition to be
10 analysed, the group comprising the concentration levels in the vinification composition of characteristic compounds selected among at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, at least a compound produced by acetic bacteria, and at least a compound produced by lactic acid bacteria, the said spectroscopic criteria being selected for each characteristic parameter to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from an
15 infrared absorption spectrum that can be generated on a sample of this vinification composition,

spectroscopic analysis means for collecting a vinification composition sample and generating an infrared continuous spectrum of this sample,

calculation means arranged to apply the spectroscopic criteria of each characteristic parameter to the said continuous spectrum and to evaluate by automatic calculation the value of this characteristic
20 parameter in the vinification composition.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the group of characteristic parameters comprises the concentration of each of the characteristic compounds belonging to the group consisting of gluconic acid, ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, mannitol, sorbitol, 2,3-butanediol, methyl-3butanol-1, glycerol, mesoinositol and isoamyl acetate. Then calibration values of these concentration levels are recorded in
25 the memory means and the calculation means are arranged to evaluate the value of these characteristic parameters.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the selection criteria are chosen for each characteristic parameter to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from a near and mid infrared spectrum, and the means for spectroscopic analysis are
30 arranged to generate the near and mid infrared continuous absorption spectrum. Advantageously and according to the invention, the means for spectroscopic analysis comprise a Fourier transform interferometric spectrometer.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the calculation means are arranged to calculate automatically at least an objective quality index of the vinification composition as a function of said value
35 evaluated from at least a characteristic parameter for the vinification composition to be analysed. Advantageously and according to the invention, the function is a polynomial function.

Advantageously and according to the invention the calculation means are arranged to calculate:

- a first quality index, representing the attack on the harvest by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least as a function of the value of concentration levels of gluconic acid, mannitol and sorbitol evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a second quality index, representing the attack by yeasts, at least as a function of the value of the concentration levels of ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, of 2,3-butanediol, of methyl-3 butanol-1, of glycerol, and of isoamyl acetate evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a third quality index representing the attack by acetic bacteria, at least as a function of values of the concentration levels of acetic acid, ethyl acetate and of 2,3-butanediol evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a fourth quality index representing the attack by lactic acid bacteria, at least as function of the value of concentration levels of lactic acid, mannitol and of 2,3-butanediol, evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- and a fifth quality index representing the fermentation ability, at least as a function of the value of the concentration level of mesoinositol.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the calculation means are arranged to evaluate each characteristic parameter and to calculate each quality index by data processing immediately after the generation of the continuous spectrum by the spectroscopic analysis means, and to provide the results of these calculations to means that are read by a user. Advantageously and according to the invention, the means that are read comprise means for printing a report of results.

Advantageously a device according to the invention, is characterised in that for each characteristic parameter, the calibration values comprise an integral number N of spectral bands α_i of predetermined wavelengths, and coefficients K_i and B_0 , and in that calculation means are arranged to calculate a value V_p of the characteristic parameter from the values of the luminescence spectral density L_i of the said continuous spectrum obtained for the N spectral bands α_i according to the formula,

$$V_p = B_0 + \sum_{i=1}^N K_i L_i$$

Advantageously and according to the invention N lies between 5 and 30, particularly in the order of 15.

Advantageously and according to the invention, the group of characteristic parameters further comprises the volumetric alcoholic strength; total sugar content; total acidity; pH; concentration of acetic acid; concentration of malic acid; concentration of tartaric acid; concentration of lactic acid, and content of phenolic compounds. Calibration values of these concentration levels are then recorded in the memory means and the calculation means are arranged to evaluate the value of the characteristic parameters

The invention also concerns a method and a device in combination with all or with part of the above or below mentioned characteristics.

In a method according to the invention, the initial configuration and calibration step is carried out once and for all, e.g. in the factory when manufacturing the device according to the invention. Afterwards, the analysis of each vinification composition is obtained in a single automatic, simple and rapid step.

- 5 Accordingly, the invention permits one to obtain an analysis of a vinification composition in a simple, rapid, reliable objective and automatic manner. In particular, it should be noted that the inventors have found that among the multitude of different compounds figuring in the composition of the vinification compositions, the characteristic parameters chosen in a method according to the invention are specific to a quality index, and can be measured in practice by infrared spectroscopy from a
10 continuous spectrum in a meaningful and useful manner, particularly by Fourier transform interferometric spectrometry.

- The inventor has also found that this technology, even though on the face of it, it is considered one of the most complex within the area of spectrometry, particularly as it normally requires the carrying out of calibrations, adjustments, and heavy and complex calculations, can in fact provide rapid and
15 precise results when it is applied to a vinification composition. Particularly, even though, on the face of it, it appears much more burdensome and complex than the use of the previously proposed spectrometer with 19 distinct wavelengths, on the contrary, the invention has proved able to permit, after configuration and calibration, a complete objective reliable and rapid analysis to be obtained. Further, the inventor has found that it is possible to provide the results directly in synthesised and simplified form in a few indices
20 of quality that easily can be interpreted by vinification professionals.

Other objects advantages and characteristics of the invention will appear from the reading of the examples in the following description with reference to the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a device according to the invention,

Figure 2 is a flow diagram of a method according to the invention.

- 25 Figure 1 illustrates a device according to the invention comprising a needle 1 for extraction of a liquid vinification composition sample for which an objective qualitative analysis is desired. This extraction needle 1 is connected to filter means 2 and to means 3 for pumping a predetermined quantity of vinification composition forming the sample to be analysed, permitting the introduction of this sample into a spectroscopic analysis cell 4. The pumping means 3 are motorised and automatically controlled to
30 extract the predetermined quantity of liquid vinification composition and maintain it in the cell 4 for a period of time to permit the generation of a continuous infrared absorption spectrum of the sample in the cell 4. These pumping means 3 can be formed in any known manner from an automatic control device, one or more electric motors and pumps, particularly peristaltic pumps. A pump can be provided upstream of the cell 4 to introduce the sample into this cell 4, and another pump can be provided
35 downstream from the cell 4 to remove the sample from the cell 4 after analysis and move it towards a discharge outlet 5 as shown in Figure 1.

Also the device according to the invention comprises a Fourier transform interferometric spectrometer 6 arranged to generate a continuous infrared absorption spectrum – particularly in the

near or mid infrared range, i.e. for wavelengths comprising 800 nm and 15000 nm – of the sample in the cell 4. Such a Fourier transform interferometric spectrometer providing a continuous near or mid infrared absorption spectrum is known as such. In particular, the spectrometer FT 120 sold by FOSS FRANCE SA (Nanterre, France) can be cited. Such an interferometer is fully automatic and incorporates means for calculating the continuous spectrum by Fourier transformation from the generated interferogram, and software for using the data. Furthermore, these calculation means are arranged to provide the results of the continuous spectrum in the form of numerical data, which can be input directly into the microprocessor data processing means 7 of the device according to the invention.

The data processing means 7 are arranged and programmed to carry out the different calculations of a method according to the invention. A mass memory 8, such as a hard disk and/or a disk or diskette reader is associated with the data calculation means 7, which also comprises the assembly of electronic components and the various customary peripherals which are necessary for their operation and which are not shown in Figure 1.

In the mass memory 8 are recorded the calibration values of spectroscopic criteria for a group of characteristic parameters characterising the quality of a vinification composition to be analysed, this group comprising the concentration in the vinification composition of characteristic compounds chosen among at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, and at least a compound produced by acetic bacteria, at least a compound produced by lactic acid bacteria, the said spectroscopic criteria being selected for each characteristic parameter to permit evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from an infrared absorption spectrum which can be generated on a sample of the vinification composition.

Furthermore, the data processing means 7 are arranged to apply each spectroscopic criterion of each characteristic parameter to the continuous spectrum produced by the interferometer spectrometer 6 and to evaluate by automatic calculation the value of the characteristic parameter in the vinification composition located in the cell 4.

In particular for each characteristic parameter the calibration values stored in the mass memory 8 comprise coefficients K_i to be applied to the luminescence spectral density values L_i of the continuous spectrum obtained for different spectral bands σ_i of predetermined wavelengths. And the data processing means 7 calculate the value V_p of the characteristic parameter according to the formula:

$$V_p = B_0 + \sum_{i=1}^N K_i L_i$$

where N is the integral number of retained spectral bands, which preferably lies between 5 and 30, in particular in the order of 15.

The various calibration values are established for each characteristic parameter from a statistic analysis of a large number of known reference samples from vinification compositions in which the real value of the characteristic parameter is known, e.g. predetermined by measured amounts added or physical-chemical measurement in a laboratory. The statistical correlation between the continuous spectra obtained for the various vinification compositions and the known real values of each

characteristic parameter allowing a determination of the various coefficients K_i , can be determined from a statistical calculation made by means of a known statistical calculation program, in particular a statistical spectroscopic program such as the one marketed by the company FOSS FRANCE SA (Nanterre, France).

5 It should be noted that the inventor has determined that from a certain number of vinification composition reference samples originating from principal grape vines (particularly Chardonnay, Cabernet, Sauvignon, Merlot, Carignan, Syrah, ...) and having different sanitary and maturity qualities, an almost universal calibration can be obtained enabling evaluation of characteristic parameters for all vinification compositions with a good reliability.

10 But the choice, the number, and the characteristics (origin, grape vines, vinification methods, ...) of the vinification composition reference samples can also be arranged, according to the same characteristics (origin, grape vines, vinification method, ...) of the vinification compositions to be analysed for optimising the calibration. For example, it is possible to supplement the initial calibration with reference samples from vinification compositions provided from the same wine-growing region as the
15 vinification compositions that have to be analysed.

The calculation means 7 are also arranged to calculate automatically at least one objective quality index of the vinification composition as a function of the value of at least one characteristic parameter. More particularly according to the invention, the calculation means 7 are arranged to calculate:

- 20 - a first quality index Q_1 , representing the attack of the harvest by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least as a function of the value of concentration levels of gluconic acid, mannitol and sorbitol evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a second quality index Q_2 , representing the attack by yeasts, at least as a function of the value of the concentration levels of ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, of 2,3-butanediol, of methyl-3 butanol-1, of
25 glycerol, and of isoamyl acetate evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a third quality index Q_3 representing the attack by acetic bacteria, at least as a function of values of the concentration levels of acetic acid, ethyl acetate and of 2,3-butanediol evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- 30 - a fourth quality index Q_4 representing the attack by lactic acid bacteria, at least as function of the value of concentration levels of lactic acid, mannitol and of 2,3-butanediol, evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- and a fifth quality index Q_5 representing the fermentation ability, is calculated at least as a function of the value of the concentration of mesoinositol.
- 35 More particularly, each quality index Q_i is calculated as a polynomial function of various characteristic parameters. Furthermore, one or more other general quality indices can be established from the volumetric alcoholic strength, total sugar content, total acid, pH, concentration of malic acid and tartaric acid, and the content of phenolic compounds.

The calculation means 7 are advantageously arranged to evaluate each characteristic parameter and to calculate automatically each quality index Q_i by data processing, and this is done immediately after the generation of the continuous spectrum by the interferometric spectrometer 6.

The choice of the various quality indices Q_i and their calculation formulas from the values of the characteristic parameters can vary to a certain degree according to the nature of the vinification composition (must and/or wine) or according to the characteristics (origin, grape vine, vinification methods ...) of the vinification compositions to be analysed.

Nevertheless, the inventors have determined that in practice the pertinent calibration values of the various above-mentioned characteristic parameters can be defined by an integral number N of wavelengths lying between 5 and 30, particularly in the order of 15 – permitting calculation of the same quality indices Q_i by the same calculation formulas which remain valid for the majority of musts and wines that can be encountered.

In practice, the general character of the calculations depends on the number of vinification composition samples which were used to establish by statistical methods the calibration values, and of the sophistication of the spectroscopic criteria employed, i.e. in particular the number of wavelengths used for each parameter. This number of wavelengths N can vary from one parameter to another, or can, on the contrary – be the same for all the characteristic parameters. The higher it is, the longer are the subsequent data processing calculations to be carried out on the continuous spectrum.

With the actual data means it has been determined that for a number $N = 15$, for the various characteristic parameters mentioned above, it is possible to obtain results of quality indices in less than one minute.

The various calibration values K_i and B_0 may be statistically determined either by a multiple linear regression or preferably, by a PLS calculation ("Partial least square"). The calibration values may also comprise corrections of slope and ordinate at the initial origin, i.e. constants α and β to be applied to the above mentioned value V_p , according to each characteristic parameter, according to the formula $\alpha \cdot V_p + \beta$, wherein these constants will vary from one device to another, particularly to compensate for the respective drifts for each interferometric spectrometer 6. The quality indices are thus calculated from the corrected values $\alpha \cdot V_p + \beta$.

The results of the analysis are communicated by the data processing means 7 to a user interface comprising reading means 10 including means for printing a report with results and /or a display screen. Preferably, the results are communicated in the form of a list of the various calculated quality indices Q_i . Preferably, the report also shows the date and/or time of the analysis and identification information for the analysed vinification composition sample. Advantageously, the user interface 9 also comprises a control button 11 permitting initiation of the extraction of a sample through the needle 1, spectroscopic analysis of the sample, and the calculation of the quality indices.

The device according to the invention is particularly compact, simple and reliable to use. Particularly it should be noted that all of the above-mentioned units except the extraction needle 1 and the user interface 9 can be integrated inside a closed casing 12. The user only has to locate the

extraction needle 1 in the sample contained in a container, and then operate the control button 11. After a wait of a few seconds, in the order of one to two minutes at the most, he will receive the results from the reading means 10 in the form of a list of quality indices.

Figure 2 represents a flow diagram of an analysis method according to the invention. The method comprises an initial configuration and calibration step 13 during which the device according to the invention is prepared to enable its operation. In this initial step 13, the various characteristic parameters used to characterise the quality of a vinification composition to be analysed later are first chosen. These characteristic parameters are those that were mentioned above. For each characteristic parameter, the N spectral bands σ_i are chosen, and by statistical calculations the various calibration values K_i , B_o for the various spectral bands σ_i are determined, and this is done by analysing a multitude of vinification compositions for which the values of the characteristic parameters are known by other means. This initial statistical calculation is carried out during step 14. In the following step 15 the various calibration values K_i , B_o are stored in the mass memory 8. Once this initial configuration and calibration step 13 has been performed, the device is ready to function, i.e. it is ready to carry out the analysis of a vinification composition in step 16. In this analysis step 16, at first, a sample extraction 17 is carried out, and then the continuous spectrum of this sample is established 18 with the aid of the Fourier transform interferometer spectrometer 6. From this spectrum and the previously stored calibration values K_i , B_o , the various values V_p of the various characteristic parameters are calculated in step 19 for the various spectral bands σ_i . Then in step 20 the various quality indices Q_i are calculated from the various values V_p of the characteristic parameters, and these quality indices are delivered to the reading means 10.

Example:

For each characteristic parameter a series of several samples is generated from musts or wines by adding measured amounts of the compound corresponding to this characteristic parameter. The generated samples then serve to provide the initial configuration and calibration step for a device according to the invention. The various spectroscopic analyses are performed by the interferometer spectrometer FT 120 from the company FOSS FRANCE SA, and the statistical calculations are performed by the spectral statistical analysis programs sold with this device.

The following tables show wavelengths (by pin number) defining the spectral bands σ_i and the calibration coefficients K_i and B_o for the spectral bands σ_i – obtained from the samples with measured added amounts for each characteristic parameter. Also the coefficients C_i and D_i of correction corresponding to the apparatus used are given.

The tables also show the discrimination rate of concentration levels obtained with the number of spectral bands σ_i used.

Furthermore, the same samples are used to re-evaluate according to the invention their respective concentration levels in compounds corresponding to the characteristic parameter. The tests are repeated. The values obtained are compared to values corresponding to the measured added

amounts provided in each sample, which are theoretical values. With these values is obtained a calculated standard deviation ETC, and a coefficient of correlation R^2 also given in each table.

The same tests are performed in similar manner for ethanal, arabitol, methyl-3 butanol-1, isoamyl acetate, glycerol, 2,3 butanediol, ethyl acetate, mannitol, sorbitol, gluconic acid, and
5 mesoinositol.

The same results can also be obtained with lactic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, glucose and fructose, total acidity, pH, acetic acid, the total alcoholic content, and the content of phenolic compounds.

ETHANAL				
σ_i	DE	A	K_i	
σ_1	445	445	K 1	102675.16746
σ_2	451	451	K 2	-123721.54770
σ_3	375	375	K 3	- 42146.44657
σ_4	359	360	K 4	- 14287.71152
σ_5	308	309	K 5	- 28381.96828
σ_6	294	295	K 6	83899.61893
σ_7	557	557	K 7	42104.33149
σ_8	263	272	K 8	- 16677.82213
σ_9	400	400	K 9	32694.87756
σ_{10}	283	284	K 10	25078.21399
σ_{11}	500	503	K 11	54137.67301
σ_{12}	390	394	K 12	- 21740.48588
σ_{13}	742	742	K 13	14944.19251
σ_{14}	299	300	K 14	- 41194.49975
Discrimination rate = 97.78 %				
$B_0 = -830.25865$				
$\alpha = 1$				
$\beta = 0$				
Number of samples = 89				
Concentration varying from 0 to 1000 mg/l				
ETC = 38.4492				
$R^2 = 0.9822$				

- The ethanal not originally present in the musts is specifically formed by the yeasts. This
- 5 permits the presence of yeasts and the start of fermentation to be detected and can be used in the quality index Q_2 .

ARABITOL				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
$\sigma 1$	445	446	K 1	34011.16421
$\sigma 2$	374	374	K 2	- 51783.46396
$\sigma 3$	448	457	K 3	- 122987.87178
$\sigma 4$	358	358	K 4	- 93391.60145
$\sigma 5$	353	353	K 5	32028.99373
$\sigma 6$	307	307	K 6	13702.96397
$\sigma 7$	295	295	K 7	53867.88537
$\sigma 8$	562	563	K 8	36605.77772
$\sigma 9$	301	302	K 9	- 81872.88535
$\sigma 10$	330	332	K 10	105552.06113
$\sigma 11$	400	400	K 11	46749.66484
$\sigma 12$	269	269	K 12	- 5973.89318
$\sigma 13$	393	393	K 13	- 39254.22277
$\sigma 14$	382	382	K 14	78489.74000
$\sigma 15$	377	378	K 15	- 53786.09915
$\sigma 16$	768	768	K 16	4573.32521
$\sigma 17$	250	252	K 17	3159.98168
$\sigma 18$	290	290	K 18	13594.96085
$\sigma 19$	384	384	K 19	- 46051.52112
$\sigma 20$	371	371	K 20	45257.05498

Discrimination rate = 94.21 %
Bo = 23.67991
 $\alpha = 1,0006$
 $\beta = 0,4956$
Number of samples = 89
Concentration varying from 0 to 350 mg/l
ETC = 19.7440
 $R^2 = 0.9593$

Arabitol has the same properties as ethanal, and can be used in the calculation of the quality index Q_2 .

METHYL -3 - BUTANOL 1				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ_1	445	445	K 1	37001.13793
σ_2	451	451	K 2	- 31825.73760
σ_3	740	740	K 3	- 11537.90703
σ_4	359	360	K 4	2750.26865
σ_5	294	294	K 5	27669.36454
σ_6	309	309	K 6	- 10792.87694
σ_7	566	568	K 7	12235.25346
σ_8	379	379	K 8	- 2020.95509
σ_9	271	271	K 9	- 3134.44842
σ_{10}	393	393	K 10	- 8172.41484
σ_{11}	399	400	K 11	- 6272.69448
σ_{12}	502	502	K 12	16729.91741
σ_{13}	265	266	K 13	- 1885.60801
σ_{14}	283	283	K 14	6328.39641
σ_{15}	326	326	K 15	- 22107.92011
Discrimination rate= 97.28%				
Bo = - 308.18771				
$\alpha = 1$				
$\beta = 0$				
Number of samples = 96				
Concentration varying from 0 to 400 mg/l				
ETC = 19.4254				
$R^2 = 0.9714$				

5

Methyl - 3 – butanol 1 has substantially the same properties as ethanal, and may be used in the calculation of the quality index Q_2 .

ISOAMYL ACETATE				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ 1	445	446	K 1	8869.55722
σ 2	351	351	K 2	-4724.52417
σ 3	331	331	K 3	16284.72853
σ 4	358	358	K 4	- 13187.74050
σ 5	451	451	K 5	- 18796.27131
σ 6	378	379	K 6	- 18948.30736
σ 7	294	295	K 7	13557.03424
σ 8	567	567	K 8	- 8980.89314
σ 9	301	302	K 9	- 13349.49570
σ 10	308	309	K 10	2551.18673
σ 11	398	398	K 11	- 7997.38660
σ 12	683	683	K 12	- 2168.91044
σ 13	385	385	K 13	2529.67798
σ 14	393	393	K 14	- 10198.64556
σ 15	281	281	K 15	- 1074.13624
σ 16	354	354	K 16	12906.05284
σ 17	270	270	K 17	- 822.14254
σ 18	253	253	K 18	2550.37446
σ 19	256	256	K 19	- 2670.03048
σ 20	250	250	K 20	1499.44706

Discrimination rate= 90.67 %
Bo = 93.23514
 $\alpha = 1$
 $\beta = 0$
Number of samples = 98
Concentration varying from 0 to 100 mg/l
ETC = 8.0368
 $R^2 = 0.9185$

Isoamyl acetate has the same properties as ethanal, and may be used in the calculation of the quality index Q_2

GLYCEROL				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ_1	447	447	K 1	- 51.35261
σ_2	302	302	K 2	- 50.58692
σ_3	366	366	K 3	13.52560
σ_4	353	353	K 4	8.17399
σ_5	393	396	K 5	30.39023
σ_6	741	742	K 6	49.85179
σ_7	383	384	K 7	110.81504
σ_8	390	390	K 8	254.95298
σ_9	334	334	K 9	141.55803
σ_{10}	361	362	K 10	211.46653
σ_{11}	371	371	K 11	219.53447
σ_{12}	274	276	K 12	- 28.56856
σ_{13}	769	769	K 13	- 20.34421
σ_{14}	392	392	K 14	- 89.82594
σ_{15}	450	450	K 15	21.01462
Discrimination rate= 97.40% $Bo = - 2.32923$ $\alpha = 1$ $\beta = 0$ Number of samples = 55 Concentration varying from 0 to 25 000 mg/l $ETC = 0.0580$ $R^2 = 0.9728$				

- 5 Glycerol has the same properties as ethanal, and may be used in the calculation of the quality index Q_2 .

2,3 – BUTANEDIOL				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ_1	446	446	K 1	- 61624.13783
σ_2	566	567	K 2	115022.21030
σ_3	358	358	K 3	315082.03317
σ_4	295	295	K 4	- 25522.71367
σ_5	311	311	K 5	- 61376.66922
σ_6	352	354	K 6	- 188041.60059
σ_7	450	452	K 7	108380.73874
σ_8	400	400	K 8	- 59989.91275
σ_9	738	739	K 9	- 99409.32842
σ_{10}	378	379	K 10	256606.18712
σ_{11}	264	264	K 11	- 31295.02573
σ_{12}	258	260	K 12	15678.84745
σ_{13}	320	321	K 13	- 165106.31604
σ_{14}	331	333	K 14	121745.91275
σ_{15}	398	398	K 15	11576.64077
Discrimination rate = 98.67% Bo = 354.21365 $\alpha = 1$ $\beta = 0$ Number of samples = 96 Concentration varying from 333 to 1350 mg/l ETC = 74.6002 $R^2 = 0.9861$				

- 5 The yeasts and the bacteria produce the 2,3 – butanediol. It can be used in the calculation of the quality indices Q2, Q3 and Q4.

ETHYL ACETATE				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ_1	445	445	K 1	- 4022.10920
σ_2	450	450	K 2	- 65335.82429
σ_3	740	740	K 3	29242.22311
σ_4	358	358	K 4	10502.82006
σ_5	301	301	K 5	-108382.38049
σ_6	399	399	K 6	19933.58344
σ_7	308	308	K 7	41565.01236
σ_8	329	330	K 8	177242.60253
σ_9	295	295	K 9	33912.39645
σ_{10}	391	391	K 10	58902.89916
σ_{11}	260	260	K 11	24959.20375
σ_{12}	505	505	K 12	-100795.64524
σ_{13}	566	566	K 13	41291.76755
σ_{14}	269	270	K 14	-3775.18718
σ_{15}	397	397	K 15	-55403.16130
σ_{16}	377	378	K 16	-78470.10709
σ_{17}	382	382	K 17	69763.39685
σ_{18}	343	345	K 18	-102702.52928
σ_{19}	282	282	K 19	-3911.36127
σ_{20}	770	770	K 20	-10660.03193

Discrimination rate = 96.11 %

$B_0 = 1302.08571$

$\alpha = 1$

$\beta = 0$

Number of samples = 98

Concentration varying from 0 to 500 mg/l

ETC = 26.9794

$R^2 = 0.9608$

The Ethyl acetate initially not present in the musts is formed specifically by the acid bacteria and certain yeasts. It may be used in the calculation of the quality indices Q_2 and Q_3 .

MANNITOL				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ_1	446	446	K 1	-3179.89056
σ_2	566	567	K 2	5001.38528
σ_3	358	358	K 3	15593.50139
σ_4	295	295	K 4	-1886.50039
σ_5	311	311	K 5	-3637.02250
σ_6	352	354	K 6	-10007.26393
σ_7	451	451	K 7	5416.46202
σ_8	400	400	K 8	-2785.76190
σ_9	738	739	K 9	-6745.93770
σ_{10}	378	379	K 10	12399.78063
σ_{11}	264	264	K 11	-1173.32860
σ_{12}	257	260	K 12	919.95926
σ_{13}	321	321	K 13	-7657.43606
σ_{14}	331	332	K 14	6569.68872
σ_{15}	762	763	K 15	1477.56746
Discrimination rate = 98.70% $B_0 = 52.25987$ $\alpha = 1$ $\beta = 0$ Number of samples = 98 Concentration varying from 90 to 750 mg/l $ETC = 3.7352$ $R^2 = 0.9859$				

- 5 The mannitol is specifically produced by the lactic acid bacteria and *Botrytis cinerea*. It can be used to calculate Q1 and Q2.

SORBITOL				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ_1	1365	1365	K 1	-170763.92687
σ_2	1724	1724	K 2	-74236.87161
σ_3	1516	1520	K 3	17284.26311
σ_4	1388	1388	K 4	160555.50077
σ_5	1165	1165	K 5	-285759.08492
σ_6	1986	1986	K 6	25471.99288
σ_7	1404	1415	K 7	286285.44757
σ_8	1057	1057	K 8	11876.72404
σ_9	2881	2881	K 9	-505.86779
σ_{10}	1037	1037	K 10	-10572.17495
σ_{11}	1446	1446	K 11	-152242.11656
σ_{12}	1222	1222	K 12	180946.67117
σ_{13}	1496	1496	K 13	134293.16678
σ_{14}	1523	1527	K 14	-137429.76254
σ_{15}	964	964	K 15	6861.61554
Discrimination rate= 88.50% $B_0 = 2852.12225$ $\alpha = 0.9993$ $\beta = 0.6461$ Number of samples = 50 Concentration varying from 30 to 300 mg/l ETC = 22.3337 $R^2 = 0.9167$				

- 5 The sorbitol is specifically produced by *Botrytis cinerea*. It can be used to calculate the quality index Q2.

GLUCONIC ACID				
σ_i	DE	A	Ki	
σ_1	449	449	K 1	27.59437
σ_2	352	352	K 2	-494.94507
σ_3	333	333	K 3	354.10721
σ_4	294	294	K 4	367.10310
σ_5	302	302	K 5	-157.88863
σ_6	396	397	K 6	-276.03158
σ_7	390	391	K 7	-115.88962
σ_8	365	370	K 8	2.66976
σ_9	377	377	K 9	140.25803
σ_{10}	267	268	K 10	27.71803
σ_{11}	384	384	K 11	51.07514
σ_{12}	741	741	K 12	-223.32023
σ_{13}	261	261	K 13	-67.28365
σ_{14}	372	372	K 14	-29.43258
σ_{15}	364	364	K 15	-63.25036
Discrimination rate= 99.44 % $B_0 = 3.47339$ $\alpha = 1$ $\beta = 0$ Number of samples = 98 Concentration varying from 0 to 8000 mg/l $ETC = 0.1692$ $R^2 = 0.9955$				

- 5 The gluconic acid is specifically produced by *Botrytis cinerea* and can be used in the calculation of the quality index Q1.

MESOINOSITOL				
σ_i	DE	A	K_i	
σ_1	445	446	K 1	-51313.80771
σ_2	450	450	K 2	-42575.49224
σ_3	740	740	K 3	-52662.13173
σ_4	358	358	K 4	-21329.77085
σ_5	301	301	K 5	-175911.52518
σ_6	399	399	K 6	-91799.02350
σ_7	308	308	K 7	24446.66022
σ_8	567	567	K 8	-3575.37646
σ_9	331	331	K 9	247459.08477
σ_{10}	295	295	K 10	43222.40578
σ_{11}	390	390	K 11	51560.39057
σ_{12}	505	505	K 12	-127663.26606
σ_{13}	260	260	K 13	49854.22008
σ_{14}	269	269	K 14	-11978.62572
σ_{15}	377	378	K 15	-59824.90209
Discrimination rate= 94.25% $B_0 = 3246.66966$ $\alpha = 1$ $\beta = 0$ Number of samples = 96 Concentration varying from 220 to 730 mg/l $ETC = 69.1944$ $R^2 = 0.9380$				

Mesoinositol is naturally present in the musts and is produced by the fermentive growth. It may be used in the calculation of the fermentability quality index Q_s .

This example indicates that the various parameters can be used with an excellent reliability to calculate the objective quality indices of the vinification compositions. The correlation coefficients are in all cases greater than 0.90; and even in most of the cases greater than 0.95, and from a relatively low

number of calibration samples. The concentration values are obtained according to the invention (from the spectrum) in less the one minute for each sample; each quality index can, for example, be calculated from the simple sum of values obtained for each characteristic parameter that makes it up, and compared to a reference value of a vinification composition considered to be of good quality
5 according to oenological theory or practice.

The invention can be the object of numerous variants in relation to the above description, which is given only by way of non-limiting example.

PATENT CLAIMS

1. A method for the objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, *characterised in that*:

- 5
 - an initial configuration and calibration step (13) is carried out during which:
 - a group of characteristic parameters are selected, the characteristic parameters being capable of characterising the quality of a vinification composition to be analysed, and comprising the concentration levels in the vinification composition of characteristic compounds, chosen among at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound
- 10
 - produced by *yeasts*, and at least a compound produced by acetic bacteria, and at least a compound produced by lactic acid bacteria,
 - calibration values (σ_i , K_i , B_{σ_i}) of spectroscopic criteria are determined and recorded for each characteristic parameter, the spectroscopic criteria being chosen to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from an infrared absorption spectrum,
- 15
 - which can be generated from a sample of this vinification composition,
 - for each vinification composition to be analysed:
 - a spectroscopic analysis (17, 18) is carried out during which a continuous infrared absorption spectrum of a sample of this vinification composition is generated,
 - the spectroscopic criteria of each characteristic parameter are applied to the said
- 20
 - continuous spectrum in such a way that the value (V_p) of this characteristic parameter in the vinification composition is evaluated by automatic calculation (19).

2. A method according to claim 1, *characterised in that* the group of characteristic parameters comprises the concentration of each of the characteristic compounds, belonging to the group consisting of gluconic acid, ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, mannitol, sorbitol, 2,3-butanediol, methyl-3 butanol-1, glycerol, mesoinositol and isoamyl acetate.

3. A method according to any of claims 1 to 2, *characterised in that* the continuous spectrum is generated by Fourier transform interferometric spectroscopy.

4. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, *characterised in that* the spectroscopic criteria are chosen to enable evaluation of each characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from a near and mid infrared absorption spectrum, and in that the near and mid

infrared continuous spectrum of each vinification composition to be analysed is generated.

5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 4, *characterised in* that at least an objective quality index (Q_i) of the vinification composition is calculated as a function of the said value (V_p) evaluated from at least a characteristic parameter of the vinification composition to be analysed.

6. A method according to claim 5, *characterised in* that the function is a polynomial function.

7. A method according to any of the claims 5 or 6, *characterised in* that there are calculated:

- a first quality index, representing the attack on the harvest by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least as a function of the value of concentration levels of gluconic acid, mannitol and sorbitol evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,

- a second quality index, representing the attack by yeasts, at least as a function of the value of the concentration levels of ethanal, ethyl acetate, arabitol, of 2,3-butanediol, of methyl-3 butanol-1, of glycerol, of mesoinositol and of isoamyl acetate evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,

- a third quality index representing the attack by acetic bacteria, at least as a function of values of the concentration levels of acetic acid, ethyl acetate and of 2,3-butanediol evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,

- a fourth quality index representing the attack by lactic acid bacteria, at least as function of the value of concentration levels of lactic acid, mannitol and of 2,3-butanediol, evaluated from the continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,

- and a fifth quality index representing the fermentation ability, at least as a function of the value of the concentration of mesoinositol.

8. A method according to any of claims 5 to 7, *characterised in* that each characteristic parameter is evaluated and each quality index (Q_i) is calculated by data processing immediately after the spectroscopic analysis step has been carried out.

9. A method according to any of claims 1 to 8, *characterised in* that the spectroscopic criteria comprise for each characteristic parameter, for a selection of an Integral number N of

spectral bands of predetermined wavelengths, the value of the luminescence spectral density L_i of the said continuous spectrum, and in that a value V_p of the characteristic parameter is calculated according to the formula:

$$V_p = B_0 + \sum_{i=1}^N K_i L_i$$

where B_0 and K_i are predetermined coefficients.

10. A method according to claim 9, characterised in that each N lies between 5 and 30.

11. A method according to any of the claims 1 to 10, characterised in that the group of characteristic parameters further comprises alcoholic volumetric strength; total sugar content; total acidity; pH; concentration of acetic acid; concentration of malic acid; concentration of tartaric acid; concentration of lactic acid; and content of phenolic compounds.

12. A device for objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, characterised in that it comprises:

memory means (8) in which the calibration values $((\sigma_i, K_i, B_0))$ of spectroscopic criteria are recorded for a group of characteristic parameters capable of characterising the quality of a vinification composition to be analysed, this group comprising the concentration levels in the vinification composition of characteristic compounds selected from at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, and at least a compound produced by acetic bacteria, at least a compound produced by lactic acid bacteria, the said spectroscopic criteria being selected for each characteristic parameter to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from an infrared absorption spectrum, that can be generated from a sample of this vinification composition,

spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) for collecting a sample of vinification composition and generating an infrared continuous spectrum of this sample,

calculation means (7) arranged to apply the spectroscopic criteria of each characteristic parameter to the said continuous spectrum and to evaluate by automatic calculation the value (V_p) of this characteristic parameter in the vinification composition.

13. A device according to claim 12, characterised in that the group of characteristic parameters comprises the concentration of each of the characteristic compounds belonging to the group consisting of gluconic acid, ethanol, ethyl acetate, arabitol, mannitol, sorbitol, 2,3-butanediol, methyl-3 butanol-1, glycerol, mesoinositol and isoamyl acetate.

14. A device according to any of claims 12 or 13, *characterised in* that the spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) comprise a Fourier transform interferometric spectrometer.

15. A device according to any of claims 12 to 14, characterised in that the selection criteria are chosen for each characteristic parameter to enable evaluation of the characteristic parameter in a vinification composition from a near and mid infrared spectrum,

and in that the spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) are arranged to generate near and mid infrared continuous absorption spectra.

16. A device according to any of claims 12 to 15, characterised in that the calculation means (7) are arranged to calculate automatically at least an objective quality index (Q_p) of the vinification composition as a function of this value (V_p) evaluated from at least a characteristic parameter for the vinification composition to be analysed.

17. A device according to claim 16, characterised in that the function is a polynomial function.

18. A device according to any one of claims 16 or 17, characterised in that the calculation means (7) are arranged to calculate:

- a first quality index, representing the attack on the harvest by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least as a function of the value of concentration levels of gluconic acid, mannitol and sorbitol evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a second quality index, representing the attack by yeasts, at least as a function of the value of the concentration levels of ethanol, ethyl acetate, arabitol, of 2,3-butanediol, of methyl-3 butanol-1, of glycerol, of mesoinositol and of isoamyl acetate evaluated from the continuous spectrum by application of spectroscopic criteria,
- a third quality index representing the attack by acetic bacteria, at least as a function of values of the concentration levels of acetic acid, ethyl acetate and of 2,3-butanediol evaluated from the

- continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
 - a fourth quality index representing the attack by lactic acid bacteria, at least as function of the
 value of concentration levels of lactic acid, mannitol and of 2,3-butanediol, evaluated from the
 continuous spectrum obtained by application of spectroscopic criteria,
 5 - and a fifth quality index representing the fermentation ability, is calculated at least as a function
 of the value of the concentration of mesoinositol.

19. A device according to any one of claims 16 to 18, *characterised in* that the calculation
 means (7) are arranged to evaluate each characteristic parameter and to calculate each quality
 10 index Qj by data processing immediately after the generation of the continuous spectrum by the
 spectroscopic analysis means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6), and to provide the results of these calculations to
 means (10) that are read by a user.

20. A device according to claim 19, *characterised in* that the means (10) that are read
 15 comprise means for printing a report of results.

21. A device according to any of claims 12 to 20, *characterised in* that for each
 characteristic parameter, the calibration values comprise an integral number N of spectral bands
 σ of predetermined wavelengths and coefficients Ki and Bo, and in that the calculation means
 20 (7) are arranged to calculate a value Vp of the characteristic parameter from values of the
 luminescence spectral density Li of the said continuous spectrum obtained for the N spectral
 bands σ , according to the formula:

$$V_p = B_o + \sum_{i=1}^N K_i L_i$$

- 25 22. A device according to claim 21, *characterised in* that N is a number between 5 and
 30.

23. A device according to any one of claims 12 to 22, *characterised in* that the group of
 characteristic parameters further comprises alcoholic strength; total sugar content; total acidity;
 30 pH; concentration of acetic acid; concentration of malic acid; concentration of tartaric acid;
 concentration of lactic acid; and content of phenolic compounds.

ABSTRACT

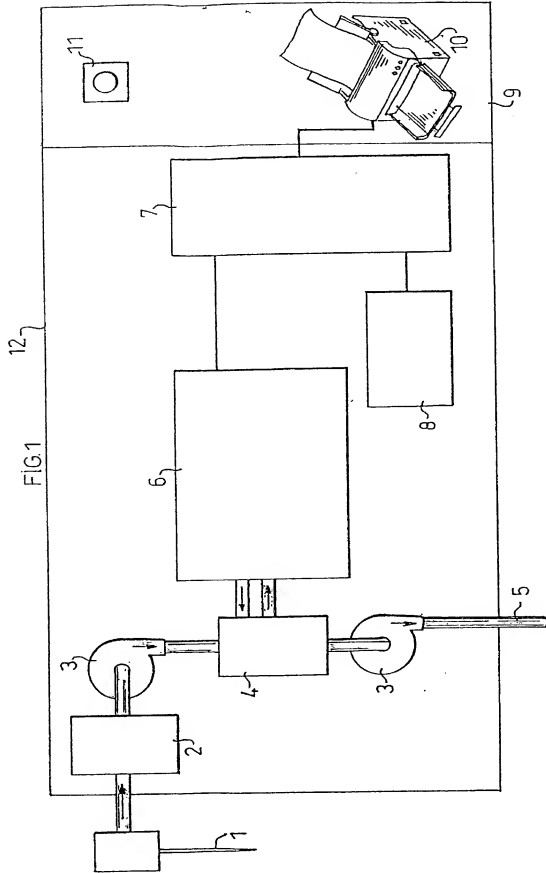
METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OBJECTIVE QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF GRAPE MUSTS
AND/OR WINES BY BROADBAND INFRA-RED SPECTROMETRY

- 5 The invention concerns a method and a device for the objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, comprising memory means (8) in which are recorded calibrating values of spectroscopic criteria for a group of characteristic parameters comprising the concentration levels of at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, at least a compound produced by the acetic bacteria, and at least a compound produced
- 10 by lactic acid bacteria, means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) for producing a continuous infrared spectrum, and means (7) for calculating the value (V_p) of each characteristic parameter in the composition from the spectrum

ABSTRACT

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OBJECTIVE QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF GRAPE MUSTS
AND/OR WINES BY BROADBAND INFRA-RED SPECTROMETRY

- 5 The invention concerns a method and a device for the objective qualitative analysis of liquid vinification compositions, comprising memory means (8) in which are recorded calibrating values of spectroscopic criteria for a group of characteristic parameters comprising the concentration levels of at least a compound produced by *Botrytis cinerea*, at least a compound produced by yeasts, at least a compound produced by the acetic bacteria, and at least a compound produced
- 10 by lactic acid bacteria, means (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) for producing a continuous infrared spectrum, and means (7) for calculating the value (V_p) of each characteristic parameter in the composition from the spectrum.



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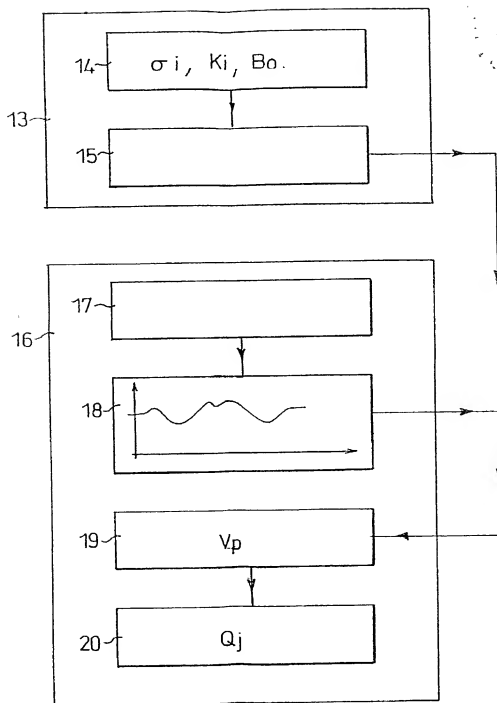


FIG. 2

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Atty. Dkt. No.: 04590-000717

DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OBJECTIVE QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF GRAPE MUSTS AND/OR WINES BY BROADBAND INFRARED SPECTROMETRY"

the specification of which (check one)

- ☐ is attached hereto.
or
☒ was filed on August 17, 2000 as Application Serial No. or PCT International Application No. PCT/DK00/00455 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)				
APPN. SERIAL NO.	COUNTRY	DATE FILED (MM/DD/YYYY)	PRIORITY CLAIM	
			Yes	No
FR 99/10627	France	08/19/1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11)

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PRIOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)	
APPN. SERIAL NO.	DATE FILED (MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S)		
APPN. SERIAL NO.	DATE FILED (MM/DD/YYYY)	STATUS - PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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